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Chapter 13

Video Conferencing started in the 1980’s as part of the wave of the future of distance learning. It utilizes various pieces of equipment to include a camera, projector or TV, microphone all with the signals carried either by a phone line, internet connection, transmitter or satellite. This application can also be known as closed circuit television as distance learning applies to as small an area as between rooms to between buildings close by or thousands of miles away.

Unified Communications includes video conferencing technology along with the use of computers and webcams. Telepresence is perhaps the choice with the most clarity as it utilizes a high level video quality signal and typically uses less than twelve attendees. Thus allowing for the bandwidth to have the better signal due to less users.

Distance education requires students and teachers to think differently. All must be comfortable utilizing all equipment involved and self-disciplined to be able to learn on a more independent basis. Costs associated with distance learning will be higher in the beginning in order to purchase the correct equipment, but once the initial investment is made, one person can command the world so to speak with the power of video conferencing and unified communications.

Video communications is continuing to be the wave of the future and may very well nearly replace the future need to attend meetings, appointments and other engagements in person. Instead, you’ll be able to participate all from the comfort of your home and be able to save on the cost of transportation.